

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 IO-06 EUR-08 H-01
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AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 1801

LIMDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, MASS, IR, CD, LY
SUBJ: IRANIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD STILL DOUBTFUL

REF: A. STATE 44127, B. TEHRAN 1765

1. CHADIAN CHIEF DELEGATE GENERAL DJOGO RECEIVED POLCOUNS (LAMBRAKIS) IN HIS HOTEL ROOM LATE EVENING FEBRUARY 20 TO BRIEF HIM OF RESULTS OF DELEGATION'S VISIT TO IRAN IN VIEW OF HIS DECISION TO LEAVE EARLY MORNING FEBRUARY 21. IN ADDITION TO PRESENTATIONS TO MINISTER OF COURT HOVEYDA AND FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARY REPORTED EARLIER, HE HAD ALSO SEEN VICE MINISTER OF COURT BAHADORI. BAHADORI HAD TAKEN SAME LINE AS KHALATBARY (REFTEL B) WHICH THE GENERAL INTERPRETS AS GENUINE STUDY OF THE QUESTION BY THE GOI AND NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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RPT NOT A REFUSAL OF ASSISTANCE.

2. IRANIANS HAVE BEEN PUZZLED BY SPATE OF REPORTS INDICATING FIGHTING IN CHAD MAY BE OVER SOON AND EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR CLARIFICATION ON THIS POINT BEFORE THEY GO FURTHER. DJOGO SAID HE HAD REPEATEDLY TAKEN THE POSITION THAT EVEN A CEASE-FIRE WOULD NOT CHANGE CHAD'S NEED TO ACQUIRE MORE MILITARY

STRENGTH. HE CONFIDED TO POLCOUNS (WE ARE NOT SURE TO WHAT EXTENT HE CONFIDED TO THE IRANIANS) THAT END OF HOSTILITIES WOULD SIMPLY BE OPENING OF LONG PERIOD OF NEGOTIATIONS AND HIS GOVERNMENT COULD NOT ACCEPT EFFORT BY LIBYANS AND REBELS TO IMPOSE MARXIST-SOCIALISM ON THE COUNTRY. CHADIAN POPULATION WOULD NOT HAVE IT THAT WAY, SO THAT EVEN WITH END OF HOSTILITIES THE MILITARY PROBLEM REMAINS.

3. DJOGO GAVE US NEW CHADIAN LIST OF NEEDS WHICH IS LONG AND DETAILED (BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT NEA/IRN FEB. 23). THIS LIST HAD BEEN PASSED TO IRANIANS THROUGH THEIR EMBASSY IN PARIS. IN ADVANCE OF DELEGATION'S ARRIVAL AND KHALATBARY KNEW ABOUT IT. DJOGO ALSO GAVE A COPY OF IT TO FRENCH AMBASSADOR HERE, ON WHOM HE EVENTUALLY CALLED, AND WHO REASSURED HIM OF FRENCH SUPPORT FOR IRANIAN ASSISTANCE TO CHAD.

4. AS AGAINST THE LONG LIST, DJOGO SHOWED POLCOUNS TALKING NOTES OF SPECIFIC PRIORITIES HE HAD INDICATED TO IRANIANS. THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS IN ORDER OF PRIORITY:

- A. ARMS AND MUNITIONS FOR A 3,000 MAN TACTICAL BRIGADE;
 - B. VEHICLES FOR THE TRANSPORTING OF THE TROOPS IN THAT BRIGADE AND COMBAT VEHICLES FOR THEM;
 - C. MONEY AMOUNTING TO BILLION ONE CFA GRANCS, WHICH DJOGO PUT AT ABOUT MILLION 350 RILAS OR APPROXIMATELY MILLION FIVE DOLLARS TO BUY FOOD STUFFS, FUEL, LUBRICANTS, AND
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MEDICINES FOR THE TROOPS;
D. CLOTHING FOR THESE 3,000 MEN.

5. IN ADDITION, AND AS A SEPARATE REQUEST FROM HIS PRESIDENT TO THE SHAH, DJOGO ASKED FOR MISSILES TO USE AGAINST AIRCRAFT AND TANKS. HE INDICATED HE WAS THINKING OF SIMPLE ITEMS SUCH AS BAZOOKAS AS WELL AS THE MORE COMPLICATED. ALSO PART OF THIS SPECIAL REQUEST WAS B26 BOMBERS SUCH AS USED IN VIETNAM. (COMMENT: THIS IS DESPITE THE FACT DJOGO INDICATED CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM EARLIER CHADIAN REQUEST BECAUSE OF U.S. REFUSAL TO AUTHORIZE THEIR TRANSFER. WE DOUBT IRANIANS HAVE MANY, IF ANY, VEHICLES FOR WHICH HE IS ASKING ARE "COMMANDO V-150" APCs ON WHICH HE HAD SALES LITERATURE IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH BUT NOT MISSILE-LAUNCHING VERSIONS.)

6. POLCOUNS INFORMED DJOGO OF DEPARTMENT DECISION (REFTEL A) THAT IT COULD NOT AUTHORIZE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR HIS DELEGATION'S LOCAL COSTS. HE SPOKE VAGUELY OF PERHAPS APPROACHING ANOTHER AFRICAN MISSION HERE. IN VIEW HIS PLANNED DEPARTURE 6:00 A.M. NEXT MORNING THIS MAY BE DIFFICULT. HE SAID HE WOULD BREAK THE TRIP IN PARIS AND THEN RETURN TO CHAD.

7. COMMENT: DELEGATION HAS THUS PLACED NEW LIST BEFORE GOI AND MADE DIRECT APPEAL FOR WHAT WOULD AMOUNT TO QUITE GENEROUS GOI ASSISTANCE. WE HAVE NO INDICATION FROM IRANIAN SIDE THAT THEY BUY DJOGO'S ARGUMENT TO EFFECT THAT MILITARY NEED CONTINUES EVEN IF THERE IS A CEASE-FIRE AND BEGINNING OF POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS. THUS DELEGATION LEAVES WITHOUT HAVING OBTAINED IRANIAN'S ASSISTANCE. WE SUSPECT THIS WILL MEAN USG (AND PERHAPS FRENCH AFTER THEIR ELECTION) WILL BE PUSHED AGAIN FOR DIRECT ASSISTANCE AS WELL AS SUPPORT OF CONTINUING EFFORTS TO OBTAIN POSITIVE GOI DECISION.

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